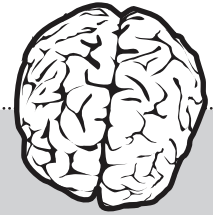


## Alcohol and the Brain

BRAIN PART	ALCOHOL'S EFFECTS ON BRAIN PARTS
<b>Cerebral Cortex</b>	When alcohol reaches this part of the brain, a person can lose judgment and lower his or her inhibitions. Alcohol here also affects how the brain gets information from the senses, which might cause blurry vision and difficulty in smelling, tasting, and hearing.
<b>Frontal Lobes</b>	This lobe of the cerebral cortex helps a person with planning, making decisions, and using self-control. Alcohol can harm a person's ability to plan, make decisions, and use self-control. If alcohol is used over a long period of time, this part of the brain can be damaged permanently.
<b>Hippocampus</b>	When alcohol reaches this part of the brain, a person can lose the ability to remember something he or she may have just learned, like another person's name or a phone number. Drinking a lot of alcohol in a short period can cause a blackout, when a person cannot remember entire events. Long-term alcohol use can cause permanent memory and learning damage in this part of the brain.
<b>Cerebellum</b>	This part of the brain helps a person with thinking, coordination, balance, and being aware of everything around them. Alcohol interferes with these abilities. Changes in this part of the brain may cause loss of balance and coordination.
<b>Hypothalamus</b>	When alcohol reaches this brain area, it can cause increased blood pressure, increased hunger and thirst, decreased body temperature, and a decreased heart rate.
<b>Medulla</b>	Drinking alcohol interferes with this part of the brain's ability to maintain the body's normal temperature. Alcohol can also cause slower breathing and heart rate. If a lot of alcohol is used over a short period of time, it can even cause a person to go into a coma when this part of the brain shuts down.

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